(b) if so, what are the details of the fields in which they have been identified; and

(c) what is the total aid likely to be provided by the Soviet Union in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) As on date, four Indo-Soviet joint venture proposals have bene approved by the Government of India out of which two are in India and two in the territory of the USSR. The Joint ventures approved in the Indian territory are in the fields of freight forwarding and marketing of Soviet technology and in the Soviet territory are in the field of restaurants. Apart from the above, a number of joint venture proposals in various fields such as chemicals, textiles, Jute, leather, agro-processing, forest-based products, electronics, etc. are in various stages of negotiation between the concerned Indian and Soviet organisations. The joint venture proposals are on the basis of contribution in the form of equity and they do not involve Soviet aid. Apart from there joint venture proposals a number of proposals improving transfer of technology and co-production between the concerned organisations of the two countries are also being negotiated.

**Strategy to solve banance of payments problem**

460. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are finalising a strategy to solve the balance of payments problem without taking fresh loan from the IMF;

(b) if so, what are the details of the strategy that is being considered;

(c) whether Government have decided not to go in for fresh IMF loans; and

(d) what were the decisions arrived at during the meeting of the World Bank and the IMF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Action Plan drawn up by Government for strengthening the Balance of Payments position, aims at measures to step up exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange earnings through investments and remittances including tourism receipts.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under Government's consideartion for seeking a fresh loan from the IMF.

**Consultancy Export**

461. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consultancy exports have not reached the desired level because the recommendations of the Technology Policy Implementation Committee have not been put to use;

(b) whether the Committee had recommended a couple of years back several concessions for consultancy exporters;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) by what time the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir. Foreign exchange earnings on account of consultancy export have shown an increasing trend over the last few years.

(b) to (d) The Technology Policy Implementation Committee made the following three major recommendations in regard to the consultancy sector: